Section 508 (NPRM) Web Accessibility Standards

This page contains the NPRM's specific requirements for Web-based information or applications. The Section 508 Web site [http://www.section508.gov] has a link to the NPRM under Proposed Standards. The Web site of the Center for Information Technology Accommodation (CITA) [http://www.itpolicy.gsa.gov/cita] has a link to a document titled: "A Concordance of NPRM Requirements and WCAG Checkpoints and Curriculum Examples." The Concordance relates the requirements listed below to appropriate examples in the W3C Curriculum for Web Content Accessibility.

1194.23 Component specific requirements.

(c) *Web-based information or applications.*

(1) A text equivalent for every non-text element shall be provided via "alt" (alternative text attribute), "longdesc" (long description tag), or in element content.

(2) Web pages shall be designed so that all information required for navigation or meaning is not dependent on the ability to identify specific colors.

(3) Changes in the natural language (e.g., English to French) of a document's text and any text equivalents shall be clearly identified.

(4) Documents shall be organized so they are readable without requiring an associated style sheet.

(5) Web pages shall update equivalents for dynamic content whenever the dynamic content changes.

(6) Redundant text links shall be provided for each active region of a server-side image map.

(7) Client-side image maps shall be used whenever possible in place of server-side image maps.

(8) Data tables shall provide identification of row and column headers.

(9) Markup shall be used to associate data cells and header cells for data tables that have two or more logical levels of row or column headers.

(10) Frames shall be titled with text that facilitates frame identification and navigation.

(11) Pages shall be usable when scripts, applets, or other programmatic objects are turned off or are not supported, or shall provide equivalent information on an alternative accessible page.

(12) Equivalent alternatives for any multimedia presentation shall be synchronized with the presentation.

(13) An appropriate method shall be used to facilitate the easy tracking of page content that provides users of assistive technology the option to skip repetitive navigation links.

A Short List of References for Accessible Web Site Design

- More information about these and further resources are available from the Center for Information Technology Accommodation (CITA) Web site: http://www.itpolicy.gsa.gov/cita. The primary resource for the GSA Web design training classes is the Curriculum for Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0, which is listed below under W3C resources. .

Government Resources

- SECTION 508: The Notice of Proposed Rule Making for Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards
  http://www.access-board.gov/sec508/nprm.htm
- Center for IT Accommodation (GSA Office of Governmentwide Policy), including Tools To Make Your Web Page Accessible (Check Your Page)
  http://www.itpolicy.gsa.gov/cita
- Federal Information Technology Accessibility Initiative
  http://www.section508.gov

World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Resources

- Curriculum for Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0
  http://www.w3.org/WAI/wcag-curric
- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 (plus Techniques and Errata)
  http://www.w3.org/TR/1999/WAI-WEBCONTENT-19990505/
- How People with Disabilities Use the Web: DRAFT NOTE
  http://www.w3.org/WAI/EO/Drafts/profiles-19990930.html
- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines Impact Matrix: DRAFT NOTE
  http://www.w3.org/WAI/GL/NOTE-WCAG-impact-matrix-19990810
- User Agent Support for Accessibility
  http://www.w3.org/WAI/Resources/WAI-UA-Support
- Web Style Sheets
  http://www.w3.org/Style/
- HTML Validation Service
  http://validator.w3.org/

Other Resources

- Adobe PDF: Accessibility Information
  http://access.adobe.com
- Java™ Accessibility and Usability Work
  http://trace.wisc.edu/world/java/java.htm
- Universal Design
  http://trace.wisc.edu/